



Velma Hendershott
President & Chief Executive Officer

October 2, 2018

Administrative Office:

50 Industrial Park Drive
P.O. Box 70
Banger, MI 49013
(269) 427-7937

Dear Representative Garcia,

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 541

Health Centers:

308 Charles Street
Banger, MI 49013
(855) 869-6900

I am writing you today requesting your support for Senate Bill 541, legislation to introduce dental therapists in Michigan. InterCare Community Health Network serves more than 44,000 residents throughout Michigan's lakeshore region from Benton Harbor to Holland. In 2017, InterCare provided more than 44,000 dental appointments to 18,219 patients.

800 N. 139
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(855) 869-6900

Despite our robust dental clinic operations, we still have more patients than we can provide care and we need options to increase our dental workforce capacity, including the option to expand our practice through the utilization of dental therapists. In 2017, an average of 25% of adults within our service area were not seen by a dental provider. Although there are never enough providers available to fill the need, the utilization of dental therapist, will increase access to the vulnerable and medically underserved residents and farmworkers within our service area.

Women's Health Center
796 N. 139
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(855) 869-6900

Student Health Center
870 Colfax
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 605-1277

InterCare is encouraged that the House Committee on Health Policy is exploring options to address the access to oral health care issue and Senate Bill 541 is a critical step to improve access to dental care and create a true dental home for hundreds of thousands of Michiganders.

6270 W. Main Street
P.O. Box 397
Eau Claire, MI 49111
(855) 869-6900

Sincerely,

Velma Hendershott
Chief Executive Officer
InterCare Community Health Network

285 James Street
Holland, MI 49424
(855) 869-6900

5498 109th Avenue
Pullman, MI 49450
(855) 869-6900

540 South State Street
Sparta, MI 49343
(616) 887-3800